

REMARKS

The Office action mailed September 19, 2006 has been received and reviewed. All pending claims stand rejected. The application is to be amended as previously set forth. All amendments and claim cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 46 through 48 stand rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 for assertedly involving new matter, lacking written support, and lacking enablement. Claims 47 and 48 have been canceled, thus mooted the rejection as to them. Applicants have further amended claim 46 as per the Examiner's suggestions, and in view of the amendments, respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 46 was rejected as containing "new matter" for use of the terminology "S22623". (Office action, p. 6). This was a typographical error, and has been corrected herein by amending the claim to state –Sw2623--, which is acknowledged to have written description support (*see, e.g.*, FIGs. 3A-3C).

On pages 7-8 of the Office action, an admittedly enabled method is set forth. Applicants have amended claim 46 to correspond to the admittedly enabled method, except for one point described further herein (*i.e.*, not limited to a QTL on chromosome 2 of a male pig), and in view of the amendment request that the rejection be withdrawn.

One reason for not limiting to a male pig's chromosome 2 is that an offspring piglet (male or female) may inherit the imprinted QTL from either or both of its parents. Thus, the imprinted QTL can be derived from either the male parent, female parent, or both parents. Yet, the fact that the QTL harbors a paternally imprinted trait means (in practice) that the trait will be expressed in the offspring only when the element is derived from the male parent. Thus, whether the trait is phenotypically present in offspring is determined solely by the male parent. This does not, however, limit the utility of the method of selecting an animal to detecting genetic markers in male pigs only. On the contrary, screening a female pig for the QTL and causing this QTL to be inherited through the mother into male offspring, will produce male offspring that will transfer the required trait into their subsequent offspring, and thus in breeding lines.

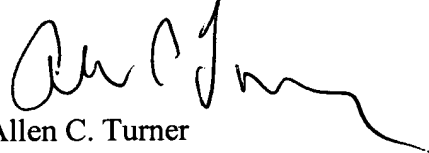
Therefore, a method of selecting a pig according to the present invention entails identifying the presence in markers not only in male pigs, but also in female pigs. It is submitted

that one of ordinary skill in the art would immediately realize that a brooding line may also be improved by screening the female pigs for the presence of a marker associated with the imprinted QTL. Accordingly, applicants request that the enablement rejection be withdrawn.

In reviewing the amendments prepared in response to the enablement rejection, it appears that they should also overcome the written description rejections, and applicants thus kindly request that those rejections also be withdrawn.

The application should now be in condition for allowance. If questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen C. Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allen C. Turner
Registration No. 33,041
Attorney for Applicants
TRASKBRITT, P.C.
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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